



**LEEC**  
LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION



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*A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana*

## ***Happy New Year from the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission!***

Welcome to our new enewsletter! We are dedicated to providing you with the latest environmental education information from across the state of Louisiana and beyond! If you have EE grants or professional development opportunities, new resources, related event information, etc. to distribute, please contact us. Wishing you the best in 2013!



Louisiana  
**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION  
SYMPOSIUM**

February 22-23, 2013 • Baton Rouge Marriott



## **REGISTER TODAY!**

On **February 22-23, 2013**, the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission and the Louisiana Environmental Education Association will host the **16th Annual Louisiana Environmental Education Symposium – “Our Environment...Our Future”** at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The theme for this upcoming conference will be “Build a Sustainable Future”! After all, isn’t that what we are really about?!

Join us for exciting workshops, concurrent sessions, and exhibits for the environmental educator! If you are a K-12 teacher or informal educator, you will want to attend this fun, education-packed, professional development event! Go home **Energized** and **Educated** in the latest **EE** concepts!

**Short Course descriptions** are posted on our website and concurrent sessions will be announced soon. **Lodging assistance** is offered to those with significant drive times while funding is available so apply now! Brochure with registration form is below. All forms and related information can be found on our [website](#).

If you haven’t attended one of our past conferences, **now is the time!** There is still time to register for the **Early Bird Registration fee of \$35!** Registration postmarked after **January 22nd** increases to \$50. Plus, why miss this valuable opportunity to **EARN** up to 12 CLUs?!

To make your hotel reservation for the Symposium call 1-800-MARRIOTT and ask for the "Environmental Education Symposium" group or click the following link: [Baton Rouge Marriott](#)

For more information, contact: Venise Ortego, EE Coordinator at [vortego@wlf.la.gov](mailto:vortego@wlf.la.gov)

## WORKSHOPS

### Opportunity from Miami U's Dragonfly

Earth Expeditions graduate courses and the Global Field Program (GFP) bring together graduate students, scientists, educators and community leaders at critical conservation sites worldwide. Applications are now being accepted for 2013 summer/fall graduate field courses and the Global Field Program. Sites for 2013 include the Amazon, Australia, Baja, Belize, Borneo, Costa Rica, Guyana, Hawai'i, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia and Thailand. Tuition for seven graduate credits and all basic in-country expenses are covered in the \$1,340 course costs. Accepted students are responsible for airfare. For information and to apply, please visit: Earth Expeditions: <http://earthexpeditions.org/>, Global Field Program: <http://gfp.projectdragonfly.org/>

Project Dragonfly reaches millions of people each year through inquiry-driven learning media, public exhibits and graduate programs worldwide. Dragonfly is housed at Miami University, a state university in Oxford, Ohio, established in 1809 and listed as one of the eight original Public Ivies. View updates and "Like" Project Dragonfly on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PrjDragonfly>.

### Gulf of Mexico Expeditions for Educators - APPLY NOW!

**CALLING ALL K-12 TEACHERS AND INFORMAL EDUCATORS!**

There's a spot on one of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation expeditions with YOUR name on it! For more information, plus exciting videos and pictures, visit the following websites. Applications are attached.

DUOY: <http://www.gulfmex.org/education-training/down-under-out-yonder/>

IWWE: <http://www.gulfmex.org/education-training/intercoastal-waterways-wetland-expedition/>

**Intracoastal Waterway Wetlands Expedition (IWWE) - June 16-27, 2013:** Explore habitats & communities along Gulf coast, while learning the importance of balancing both the environment and economy.

Application DEADLINE: April 22, 2013

COST: ONLY \$100 plus travel to and from Freeport, TX. Everything else is covered once aboard the vessel.

**Down Under, Out Yonder (DUOY) - July 12-17, 2013:** Dive into the depths of the Flower Garden Banks and explore the Gulf's coral reef treasures. MUST be SCUBA certified and provide own gear/equipment (minus tank).

Application DEADLINE: March 8, 2013

COST: \$250 plus travel to and from Freeport, TX and your SCUBA gear.

### Dad & Daughters: Discovering Coastal Water Science—February 16th

The Coastal Waters Consortium ([cwc.lumcon.edu](http://cwc.lumcon.edu)) and LUMCON are hosting a 1-day dad & daughter workshop to learn about our estuary and recent research contributed towards the immediate and future impacts of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Event funding provided by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative.

*Details: 9am-3:30pm (LUNCH is provided), DeFelice Marine Center, Cocodrie, LA; Eligibility: Dad & daughter pairs. Daughters must be 12-18 yrs; Cost: \$15/pair (non-refundable)*

This event features lab activities and content designed to discover the intricacies of our fragile environment that is impacted by human influence. There will be: paddling trip in the salt marsh, hands-on lab activities, tour of the DeFelice Marine Center, presentation explaining the oil spill research efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, and much more!

Registration **Deadline: February 4, 2013**; Registration form is attached.

For more information: Murt Conover, [mconover@lumcon.edu](mailto:mconover@lumcon.edu), (985) 851-2860

## GRANTS

### Captain Planet Foundation Grants—Deadline: February 28

U.S.-based schools and organizations with annual operating budgets of less than \$3 million are eligible to apply for grants from the Captain Planet Foundation. Grants support high-quality educational programs that enable children and youth to understand and appreciate our world through learning experiences that engage them in active, hands-on community service projects to improve the environment in their schools and communities. Preference is given to requests seeking seed funding of \$500 or less and to applicants who have secured at least 50 percent matching or in-kind funding. <http://bit.ly/y1tPpz>

## CONTESTS

### The 2013 DuPont Challenge!

There are plenty of new aspects to The 2013 DuPont Challenge: a new [website](#), new [categories](#), and new ways to win: [See our downloadable chart of awards for students and teachers](#). One thing that hasn't changed is the goal of getting the next generation interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). This is why one of this year's categories - "Together, we can innovate anywhere" - gives students the opportunity to write about any STEM topic: medicine, outer space, animals, music... whatever they are passionate about! Just like in previous years of The DuPont Challenge, essays on any area of science can still be submitted in this general category. The 2013 DuPont Challenge has four categories of Challenges in which students can submit their essays: [Feed](#), [Energy](#), [Protect](#), and [Innovate](#). For topics that relate to innovations in food, energy, or protection, students are encouraged to submit those essays into the corresponding categories. The top Junior Division essay and top Senior Division essay from each of the four categories will win one of the top awards!

### Journey North Mystery Class Challenge—Begins January 28

You and your students can be a part of the big mystery with Journey North! Students use clues related to sunlight change (photoperiod) to find ten mystery locations around the world. In the process, they learn how seasons affect life on Earth and practice geography skills. <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/mclass/fall2012/update120112.html>

### Volvo Adventure—Submissions Due January 31

This program rewards environmental activities and the decision-makers of the future. Teams of students perform an environmental project in their community and submit the project via an online submission tool. The best projects are selected for an all-expenses paid trip to Sweden to compete for prizes up to \$10,000! Submissions due January 31, 2013. Please visit <http://www.volvoadventure.org/home.aspx> for complete details.

### Change the World Challenge—Deadline: March 5, 2013

The Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, a national environmental sustainability competition for grades K-12, is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 program. Through project-based learning, students learn about science and conservation while gaining 21st-century skills. The deadline for all entries is March 5, 2013. Additional information is available at [www.wecanchange.com](http://www.wecanchange.com).

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## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### National Youth Science Camp

Each year the governor of West Virginia issues an invitation to the governor of every other state to initiate a process to select delegates to the National Youth Science Camp. Two outstanding graduating seniors from Louisiana will be selected to spend a month in the Monongahela National Forest near Bartow in the eastern mountains of West Virginia. All expenses are covered allowing the selected delegates to attend regardless of their financial status. Applicants should be candidates for graduation in the spring of 2013 who have demonstrated superior academic proficiency in mathematics and/or science and who intend on pursuing a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics based career. All application materials may be accessed at: <http://2013.nysc.org/about-the-national-youth-science-camp/apply/> must be received at the address below no later than **February 15, 2013**: Jean May-Brett, NYSC Program Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Education, 1201 North Third St, 4-259, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

### Opportunity with MyCOE GCE

MyCOE GCE is connecting high school students in the U.S. with their peers abroad. Through virtual online meetings, high school students throughout the world will develop collaborative, youth-led projects that map sustainable development issues. These meetings are arranged through online video conferences, internet phone calls and chat sessions. International classrooms are located in Bolivia, Ghana, Nicaragua, and the Philippines. Project topics include environmental themes while enriching cultural literacy. Topic Areas are Climate Change, Food Security and Vulnerability, Green Economy, Natural Disasters and Hazards, Sustainable Development and Youth Leadership. U.S. high school educators (formal and informal) of any subject matter are eligible to participate. Learn more or sign up at: [www.aag.org/globalconnections](http://www.aag.org/globalconnections)

## RESOURCES

### Green Apple Initiative

Announced at the Clinton Global Initiative, the Green Apple Initiative is designed to promote healthier learning environments for all school children. Together we will improve student health and safety, increase student success, and promote sustainability. Publishers will develop and distribute resources for schools that seek to become better learning environments; drive the conversation around aligning sustainability education with the Common Core; and improve our own environmental impact while supporting Green Apple through a new virtual sampling program.

<http://www.mygreenapple.org/?elq=555df7ba21b84907813a0fba9b0cdd68&elqCampaignId=45>

### FREE Posters!

**Twelve Orders of Soil Taxonomy Poster:** provided by the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. From the web page, you can click on each soil order for a high-resolution, printable PDF file or, for a high resolution PDF version of the entire poster, click on the title in the center of the poster. You can also order free copies of the entire poster for your classroom by visiting [http://www.soils.usda.gov/technical/soil\\_orders/](http://www.soils.usda.gov/technical/soil_orders/)

**Evolution Wall Poster:** To apply for this five-foot wide, unique teaching resource fill out a simple form, and while supplies last, it will be sent directly to your school for display. The poster shows geological events concurrent with biological events. It covers the past 4.6 billion years. To see what the poster looks like:

<http://www.the-brights.net/images/SAMPLE%20Timeline%2010-28-11%20Small2LoRez.pdf>

If you are interested in receiving "Earth and Life: changes over time", please visit the following link and complete the application. <http://www.the-brights.net/images/TeacherRequest%20Form.pdf>

### A New Online Resource Available from BSCS that you'll want to use in the spring!

Carbon Connections is an inquiry-based online curriculum for students in grades 9-12, designed to improve students' understanding of the carbon cycle and the science of Earth's climate. Each of the three units was nationally field tested and revised with more than 30 teachers and 1,700 students. The program features interactive and hands-on investigations, virtual field-trip videos, NASA-based resources, and much more! Explore and access the entire Carbon Connections curriculum at [carbonconnections.bsccs.org](http://carbonconnections.bsccs.org)

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## LAGNIAPPE

### Louisiana Here We Come!

We've begun work on building our next state site, the Louisiana Conservation Center, to join our existing regional sites: [Arkansas, California, Maine, Mississippi and the Houston region](#). **Conservation Resources at Your Fingertips:** [www.PrivateLandownerNetwork.org](http://www.PrivateLandownerNetwork.org)

### The Wildlife Center of Texas 2012 Year in Review

The Wildlife Center of Texas assisted over 9,000 wild animals in 2012! From owls, to squirrels, to deer and eagles, the Wildlife Center was there to help rescue, rehabilitate and return our wild friends to their native habitat. [Click here](#) to see photos of just some of the animals that came through the door and learn more about our mission.

**Bobcat Calls WCT Home**—The Wildlife Center of Texas and the Houston SPCA have been working together to help an adult bobcat have a second chance at life. [Click here](#) to watch a video of how the bobcat is being treated

**Open House Big Success**—The Wildlife Center of Texas enjoyed another successful Open House. The evening celebrated the dedication of hard working volunteers, generous supporters and our skilled veterinarians. See a slide show from the event by [clicking here](#).

*Find out about wetland outreach activities including symposiums, conferences, meetings, educational opportunities, volunteer opportunities, and related support material at the **Louisiana Unified Coastal Community Calendar** at <http://lacoast.gov/calendar/>*

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